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Dear

My boss asked for nominations for the Defense Schools prior to my receiving your letter of 20 July, so I nominated you for the service school of your choice - the top one - and you were in turn recommended by the SA Board as one of the three DDS nominees for that school. As you know, competition for this particular school is cruel, and we still have only three slots for the Agency as a whole. This, however, I think is the year to run. You are almost at the edge of the age limitation, and every year that you put it off makes your selection the less likely.

If you are not selected for the top service school, I heartily agree with you that you should have an operational assignment upon completion of your present tour. We will start working toward that end here at head quarters, but I urge you to do anything you can yourself. You might also give me some leads, namely, people you know who would be receptive, who are back here at headquarters, and I could sound them out personally.

I'm glad that Ila and the two older girls had some time in though there visit coincided with some unpleasant activities. It was good experience for all of them. Be sure and give them my love and all the best to yourself.

Sincerely,

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MATTHEW BAIRD

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